

Message Text

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ORIGIN ERDA-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07
CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08
NRC-05 OES-07 DODE-00 SS-15 SP-02 PM-05 /108 R

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USERDA:AIA:RNSLAWSON
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PM/NPP: G OPLINGER
ARA/AND: W SERGENT
OES/NET/RD: VA

-----075524 260517Z /15

R 252354Z JUL 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 173994

USIAEA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, IAEA, VE

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN REQUEST FOR ENRICHED URANIUM AS GIFT

REF: CARACAS 3992

1. SUMMARY. IN RESPONSE PARA. 3 REFTTEL, INFORMATION IS
PROVIDED ON POSSIBILITY OF VENEZUELA'S RECEIVING SPECIAL
NUCLEAR MATERIAL (SNM) FOR REACTOR FUEL AS GIFT. END W
SUMMARY.

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2. U.S. HAS TO DATE OFFERED UP TO DOLS 50,000 WORTH
OF SNM TO IAEA ANNUALLY FOR USE IN MEDICAL THERAPY OR
IAEA RESEARCH PROJECTS IN MEMBER COUNTRIES. IN
SEPTEMBER 1976 U.S. MADE SUCH AN OFFER FOR CALENDAR YEAR
1977. GIFT SNM IS PROVIDED UNDER U.S. AGREEMENT FOR
COOPERATION WITH IAEA, WHETHER OR NOT RECEIPT NATION

HAS AN AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION WITH U.S.

3. PROCEDURE FOLLOWED IN ALLOCATING U.S. GIFT MATERIAL HAS BEEN FOR IAEA TO ADVISE U.S. OF ELIGIBLE PROJECTS LATE EACH YEAR AND FOR U.S. TO DESIGNATE WHICH OF THESE PROJECTS SHALL BENEFIT FROM U.S. GIFT THAT YEAR AND IN WHAT AMOUNT. BEGINNING IN 1974, U.S. HAS GIVEN PREFERENCE

TO NPT PARTIES IN ALLOCATING GIFT MATERIAL. ENRICHMENT LEVEL OF SNM EXPORTS AUTHORIZED BY U.S. HAS NOT BEEN A CRITERION IN DECIDING GIFT SNM ALLOCATIONS. HOWEVER, AS EMPHASIZED IN PREVIOUS COMMUNICATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT, REQUESTS TO EXPORT HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM (HEU) FOR REACTOR FUEL ARE SUBJECT TO ESPECIALLY CAREFUL SCRUTINY.

4. QUANTITY OF SNM AWARDED TO EACH RECIPIENT OF GIFT SNM FOR REACTOR FUEL NATURALLY DEPENDS ON NUMBER OF SUCH RECIPIENTS IN ANY PARTICULAR YEAR. USUALLY, TOTAL GIFT HAS BEEN DIVIDED AMONG SEVERAL RECIPIENTS, WITH EACH RECEIVING PART OF ITS SNM REQUIREMENTS AS GIFT AND PAYING FOR THE REST. WE DO NOT KNOW HOW MANY PROJECTS WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR GIFT CONSIDERATION THIS YEAR, BUT AT LEAST ONE OTHER APPEARS POSSIBLE AT PRESENT. THUS IF IVIC PROJECT WERE DESIGNATED AS GIFT RECIPIENT IVIC MIGHT STILL HAVE TO PAY FOR LARGE PART OF ITS SNM REQUIRE-
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MENTS. IT WOULD HAVE TO PAY FOR SOME EVEN IF THERE WERE NO OTHER GIFT RECIPIENT, SINCE AT PRESENT ERDA PRICE, 2900 GRAMS 93 PERCENT-ENRICHED URANIUM, DELIVERED FOB AS UF₆, WOULD COST ABOUT DOLS 58,711. WITHOUT KNOWING DETAILS OF PLANNED REACTOR OPERATION, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO STATE HOW MUCH ENRICHED URANIUM WOULD BE REQUIRED IF 20 PERCENT INSTEAD OF 93 PERCENT-ENRICHED -

WERE USED; ASSUMING QUANTITY TO BE 16 KGS., COST DELIVERED FOB AS UF₆ WOULD BE ABOUT DOLS 64,690. (GREATER TOTAL QUANTITY IS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE SAME QUANTITY OF FISSIONABLE ISOTOPE U-235 AS IN 2900 GRAMS OF 93 PERCENT MATERIAL).

5. U.S. BELIEVES URANIUM ENRICHED NOT OVER 20 PERCENT SHOULD BE USED WHEREVER POSSIBLE, AND INTENDS TO AVOID NEW COMMITMENTS TO EXPORT SIGNIFICANT QUANTITIES OF HEU EXCEPT WHEN PROJECT HAS EXCEPTIONAL MERIT AND USE OF LOW-ENRICHED FUEL OR OTHER LESS WEAPONS-USABLE MATERIAL IS CLEARLY SHOWN TO BE TECHNICALLY INFEASIBLE.

6. TABORDA INDICATES (REFTEL) THAT THERE IS NO TECHNICAL

REQUIREMENT AS SUCH FOR HEU. CONSEQUENTLY, WE STRONGLY
RECOMMEND THAT IVIC ABANDON IDEA OF HEU FUEL AND INSTEAD
CONTINUE OPERATING WITH URANIUM ENRICHED NOT OVER 20
PERCENT. U.S. IS PREPARED TO GIVE PROMPT CONSIDERATION
TO AUTHORIZING EXPORT OF SUCH MATERIAL, AND WOULD GIVE
CONSIDERATION TO PROVIDING SOME MATERIAL AS GIFT IF
PROJECT WERE AMONG THOSE IAEA DECLARED ELIGIBLE FOR GIFT
CONSIDERATION. ADVISE. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: URANIUM, GIFTS, NUCLEAR FUELS, NUCLEAR REACTORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Film Number: D770265-0918
Format: TEL
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770721/aaaaarzy.tel
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